

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An intra-vascular balloon, comprising:  
a balloon body; and  
at least one springy and elongate ~~staverod~~, ~~made of a different material from the balloon~~, directly attached to said balloon body and conforming to a surface of said balloon body, such that said ~~stave~~at least one rod can apply contact force to an object in contact with said balloon.
  
2. (Currently Amended) A balloon according to claim 1, wherein said balloon body is elongate and wherein said ~~stave~~at least one rod is provided along a long dimension of said balloon body.
  
3. (Original) A balloon according to claim 1, comprising a tether attached to said balloon.
  
4. (Currently Amended) A balloon according to claim 1, wherein said at least one ~~staverod~~ comprise a plurality of ~~staves~~rods arranged around said balloon body.
  
5. (Currently Amended) A balloon according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of ~~staves~~rods are attached to each other at their ends.
  
6. (Currently Amended) A balloon according to claim 5, wherein said ~~staves~~rods modify a geometry of said balloon when not inflated.
  
7. (Currently Amended) A balloon according to claim 6, wherein said ~~staves~~rods are configured to compact said balloon body in a resting condition thereof.
  
8. (Currently Amended) A balloon according to claim 6, wherein said ~~staves~~rods are configured to apply radially outwards pressure to said balloon body in a resting condition thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A balloon according to claim 5, wherein said stavesrods are distortable by an expansion of said balloon.

10. (Currently Amended) A balloon according to claim 1, wherein said balloon body is formed of an elastic material.

11. (Currently Amended) A balloon according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of stavesrods are configured to substantially surround said balloon body when said balloon body is collapsed.

12. (Currently Amended) A vascular implant, comprising:

a flexible band having a diameter suitable for implantation in a blood vessel, surrounding a flow passage through which blood flows at a restricted rate when the implant is implanted in the blood vessel; and

a plurality of elongate axial elements mounted on an outer surface of said band.

13. (Original) An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band is thin.

14. (Original) An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band has a thickness suitable for restricting blood flow.

15. (Original) An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band has a length substantially smaller than a length of said elements.

16. (Original) An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band is elastic.

17. (Currently Amended) A blood flow reducing implant, comprising a body defining a flow channel having ~~ana~~ cross-section which is ~~progressively~~-restricted along an axial direction, in which the smallest diameter of a cross-section is sized for passage of a guidewire and blockage of substantially all blood-flow therethrough.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) An implant according to claim 17, wherein said smallest diameter blocks over 95% of blood flow through said implant.

20. (Original) An implant according to claim 17, wherein said smallest diameter is restricted by an elastic sheath.

21. (Previously Presented) A vascular implant, comprising:

a flexible band having a diameter suitable for implantation in a blood vessel and  
a plurality of elongate axial elements mounted around the outside of said band.

22. (Previously Presented) A vascular implant according to claim 12, wherein said plurality of elongate axial elements are mounted around the outside of said band.

23. (New) A balloon according to claim 1, wherein said at least one springy and elongate rod is made of a material which is different from that of the balloon.

24. (New) An implant according to claim 17, wherein said flow channel has a cross-section which is progressively restricted along an axial direction.